TL 5044

CNRT Timor-Leste
xanana gusmão

Let us free our homeland, our beloved East Timor

Beloved and heroic people of East Timor.

Today, the 30th of August, is a day of great historical significance in our liberation struggle.

Today the East Timorese people exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

Today, before the international community, we will decide our destiny, our future, our freedom, our independence.

It has not been easy, but we have overcome the difficulties, the suffering and bloodshed, the grief and the sorrow.

I recognise that these past few days have been difficult, overwhelmingly difficult.

However, I appeal to the entire population to draw upon their last reserves of courage and determination.

Let us vote, let us all vote. Let us not be afraid. East Timor depends on the courage and conviction we demonstrate today.

This day marks once and for all times the end of our long suffering and today, too, we affirm our sovereignty as a people.

Let us vote, let us all vote!
Let us not be afraid!

In conclusion, I make an appeal for everyone to return to their homes after voting.

I order the youth and youth leaders to be in control of their emotions, to refrain from provocation and resist the temptation to respond to provocation. I am aware that some youth have allowed themselves to get out of control and this cannot continue. Further death and bloodshed in East Timor is intolerable. Our youth must play a political role in containing violence. Our youth must assume responsibility for averting further bloodshed in our homeland

Reconciliation must be genuine and entered into with sincerity. Some of those in positions of responsibility within our Resistance structures have, through deeds or words, obstructed an awareness of the true meaning of reconciliation. And this is wrong.

Once again, I appeal to all to return home after voting and to contribute to a climate of greater tranquility for all!

Let us vote. Let us free our homeland, our beloved East Timor.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao
President of CNRT

30 August, 1999